DEAR READERS!

We welcome all our readers with the second issue of the year 2011. All who have published and who are going to submit their research papers in *Oil Shale* are welcome. As Executive Editor of *Oil Shale* I would like to thank you all – authors, readers, members of the Editorial Board, reviewers – for helping me in my everyday work and for improving the quality of the journal.

We are happy to publish the papers from all over the world. We are curious to hear more about the news from the United States, Russia, Canada and Australia, and of course from all other countries with oil shale resources.

*Oil Shale* (Goryuchie Slantsy) was founded in 1984 as a joint scientific-technical journal of the Academies of Sciences of the former USSR and Estonian SSR, and we hope to continue publishing it while we have oil shale to research. *Oil Shale* is the only journal in the world specialized in oil shale. It is concerned with geology, mining, genesis, composition, methods of processing and combustion, economics and utilization of oil shale and bituminous sands, as well as with problems of environment protection and history of oil shale industry. In 1990, the Editorial Board started to reorganize the previous journal having been written mainly in Russian into an international one with the purpose to join the scientists dealing with oil shale research all over the world.

*Oil Shale*, the journal of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, is administered by the Estonian Academy Publishers from January 1999 and runs on a non-profit base.

Journal *Oil Shale* is indexed in the Science Citation Index® and in the following ISI® products: Current Contents®/Engineering, Computing, and Technology, SciSearch®, ISI Alerting® Servicessm.

In 2008 our journal opened the new column called *Oil Shale News* to publish short information concerning dissertations (the title, the author, short description and the link to the printed or online paper), information on new books, on new oil shale fields, technologies, chemicals factories, mines, conferences, meetings, etc. I would like to thank you all for sharing their
activities with us. For new submissions please contact our Editorial Office: meelika@kirj.ee.

Also we would like to inform you about opening a new column called **Historical Reviews** to publish brief accounts or articles about investigations made earlier or information on the topic that is not generally accessible (including books), because it had been published prior to electronic capture of articles, and/or published in languages other than English.

Some important notes for authors:

Please familiarize yourselves with the instructions to authors from our website www.kirj.ee/oilshale before submitting the paper, including the style of *Oil Shale* when listing the references at the end of your paper.

It is essential that the paper be written in clear, proper English. If English is not your native language, we recommend that you ask a native English speaker to read over your manuscript before submitting. Please pay attention to the quality of figures. Handwritten lettering and low-quality computer graphics are not acceptable. Preferred file formats are TIFF, BMP, XCL, and CDR (resolution at least 300 dpi).

Before starting the research, please familiarize yourselves with the old issues of *Oil Shale* and capture the information from electronic databases.

Last but no at least I am very happy to say that the impact factor of *Oil Shale* has increased year by year. We are hoping that the tendency will last.

Enjoy the reading and writing!

*Meelika NÕMME*

Executive editor